

West Nile Virus Advisory Flyer

The Cincinnati Health Department collects mosquitoes at various locations throughout the city each year in order to test for the West Nile Virus. We are distributing this flyer to inform you that we have collected a mosquito sample in your general area that has tested positive for the West Nile Virus. There is no need to be alarmed; it is normal to get positive mosquito samples at this time of the year.

Conducting surveillance helps us and the Ohio Department of Health keep track of the virus so that necessary steps are taken if it becomes a significant threat. At this time, we ask that you simply take the precautionary measures below to protect you and your family.

What You Can Do Around Your Home and Community

You and your neighbors can do several things to help prevent mosquitoes from breeding near your homes and also to protect yourselves from mosquito bites.

Controlling Breeding Sites

- Since mosquitoes breed in stagnant water and can do so even in a very small quantity of water, remove any possible breeding areas where mosquitoes could lay eggs.
- Eliminate sources of standing water in your yard (for example: saucers under flower pots, children's toys, wheelbarrows, boats, tires, puddles).
- Replace water in bird baths and outdoor pet dishes at least every week to help eliminate stagnant water.
- Keep your swimming pool circulating, cleaned and chlorinated, and remove any water that collects on your swimming pool cover. Empty out and turn over plastic wading pools or kiddie pools when not in use.
- Keep your gutters clean to prevent standing water.

Protecting Yourself

During mosquito season (May through September for most of the U.S.), limit outdoor activities as much as possible at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are the most active. There are mosquito species that bite humans during the day, but these have not been known to carry the West Nile Virus.

- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting pants and long-sleeved shirts, as well as shoes and socks when outdoors for long periods of time, or when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use an EPA-approved mosquito repellent to protect exposed skin and follow label directions carefully when applying to yourself or your children.
- Place BTi (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) briquettes such as Mosquito Dunks® in standing water that cannot be drained. BTi is lethal to mosquito larvae but harmless to humans, other animals and aquatic life. It can provide protection for up to 30 days and can be purchased at many hardware stores or gardening centers.
- Repair or replace old and torn screens in doors, windows and vents. Look for any other possible access points into your home.
- If you choose to use an insect spray to treat your property or yard, be sure to follow label directions carefully.
- If you have any questions or need more information regarding West Nile Virus or mosquitoes contact Robert Smith at the Health Department's Technical Environmental Services Unit at 352-2922.